

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment as offered by Senator Rogers.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Do we have a motion to advance the bill? Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Mr. Speaker, I move the advancement of LB 583 to E & R for engrossment.

SPEAKER BAACK: That is debatable. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I want to correct a statement made by Senator Rogers. I don't think he really meant it but he said I was negative toward checkoffs. I am not negative toward checkoffs. I am terribly negative toward lack of accountability of tax funds. And I want to say also, as I said earlier, I helped pass every single checkoff bill on this floor and took a lot of flak and a lot of heat for doing so, with the exception of the Wheat Board. And I would do it again, but I don't believe you raise 8 million bucks and turn it over to a nonresponsible entity that this body has no control over and which really the cattle feeders have no control over without some sort of accountability. As far as I'm concerned, the national checkoff was passed by members of Congress who were carrying the load for some publicity firms and that was about it. There is no reason that I can think of why we casually turn \$8 million or \$7 million annually over to a group of people who really do not or will not, don't have to, we're telling them not to account to us for the expenditure of the money. We're going to be wrestling with the budget here in a few days and we will argue long and hard over much less money than that. I'm not saying the money is being spent unwisely. What I am saying is that we condone unwise spending of tax funds when we do not require accounting. It is an error not to do so. It is a mistake. It is a mistake which this body will regret. Each time we have done that we served to rue the day and we're going to do so this time. I probably won't be here and some of the other members won't be here but some of you will be here and you're going to be called upon to explain why. Ladies and gentlemen, it's a terrible thing to be able to spend public money without accountability and we are giving someone a blank